

(Washington, DC) Today, Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) made the following statement commemorating Memorial Day, which is observed on May 30:

"Let us remember those who have fought and those who have fallen, sacrificing their lives in the name of freedom and democracy. In the course of history, we have been involved in many conflicts on several continents to defend our nation and our allies and to promote the ideals of self-sovereignty, democracy, and human rights. Fathers and sons, mothers and daughters have selflessly fought on lands that they had never seen, to protect people that they had never met. I laud their courage, honor, and compassion.

"As our Armed Forces remain engaged in Iraq and Afghanistan, young men and women will continue to pay the ultimate price to defend our nation. Let us honor the memory of the 4,400 Americans who have died in Iraq and the more than 1,500 who have died in Afghanistan. Let us also ensure that those who return to their families are provided with the most accessible, affordable and quality services and benefits.

"On this year's Memorial Day, my thoughts and prayers are with the men and women in uniform who are currently serving and to those who have served this nation so valiantly. Thanks to their courage and dedication, we can enjoy freedom and democracy here at home. We are indebted forever to our fallen service men and women and we must ensure that their sacrifices live on in our memories. I encourage my colleagues in Congress and all Americans to join me in honoring them."

Congressman Alcee L. Hastings serves as Senior Member of the House Rules Committee, Ranking Democratic Member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, and Democratic Chairman of the Florida Delegation.

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